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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7499

BILL NUMBER: HB 1429

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 14, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Feb 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Textbooks and Other Curricular Material.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Yarde

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Kruse

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Curricular Materials:* This bill expands the definition of "textbook" to include certain hardware, software, and digital content. It also adds a definition of "curricular materials". The bill requires the Department of Education to review curricular materials, evaluate the curricular materials alignment to state academic standards, and publish the reviews, which governing bodies may use in making textbook adoption decisions.

Adoption of Textbooks: The bill removes the authority of the State Board of Education to adopt a list of approved textbooks, and requires the governing body of each school corporation to adopt textbooks for the school corporation. It repeals references to the State Textbook Advisory Committee and the State Board adoption of textbooks, and makes corresponding changes to related sections.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Curricular Materials:* The bill expands the definition of "textbook" to include digital devices such as e-readers, and textbooks in digital format that can be accessed using an e-reader. It also defines "curricular material" as textbooks and material used to supplement or replace them such as textbooks in digital format.

This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to evaluate "curricular materials" to ensure that they meet the current academic standards as determined by the State Board of Education. This provision adds reading and world languages to the subject areas to be evaluated. The evaluation must include the price of the materials to be used.

The subsequent report (to be updated annually) would be published on the Department's website and

forwarded to the governing body and superintendent of each school corporation. Except for reading textbooks, corporations would not be obligated to use this list to make their textbook selection.

Under the bill, the DOE would be assuming the role formerly performed by the State Textbook Advisory Committee and the State Board of Education as it pertains to textbook adoption. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Adoption of Textbooks: See Explanation of Local Expenditures below.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Summary:

(1) *Curricular Materials:* If a school corporation decides to use textbooks in digital format, the fiscal impact would depend on whether replacing hard copy textbooks with digital ones is more cost effective. Some corporations may have to take out loans to cover the initial start up costs. However, they have this ability now to cover the purchase of new textbooks. Corporations may also have to train both staff and students on using the electronic displays. Other issues that corporations may have to consider include policies for internet use, parental concerns, insurance for the electronic displays that may be lost or stolen, and the availability of textbooks in digital format.

(2) *Adoption of Textbooks:* The bill gives school corporations the flexibility to select and replace textbooks without prior approval from the State Board of Education. The fiscal impact would depend on whether the school corporation could obtain the textbooks more cheaply than the State Board. It is possible that corporations could combine their purchases if that would be more cost effective.

Curricular Materials: The bill permits a school corporation, at its discretion, to use textbooks in digital format either to replace hard copy textbooks or to supplement them.

Adoption of Textbooks: Under current law, a process exists for textbook selection at the state level involving the State Textbook Advisory Committee on Education and the State Board of Education. The advisory committee recommends textbooks to the State Board for adoption. The State Board, in turn, recommends textbooks from the list to school corporations, and also enters into contracts with publishers to furnish the textbooks.

At the local level there is a parallel process for textbook selection. A committee of teachers and parents recommends textbooks to the superintendent who forwards the list to the governing board. The governing body, upon receiving the recommendations from the superintendent, chooses textbooks for the corporation from the state textbook adoption list.

Under this bill, the state process would be discontinued. The State Textbook Advisory Committee and the State Board of Education would be relieved of their duties concerning textbook selection and adoption. Instead, except for reading textbooks, the governing body of each school corporation would determine which textbooks to use and make arrangements with the publisher for delivery. School corporations would have to select reading textbooks from the list provided by DOE.

Although current law stipulates that a textbook may be used for a maximum of six years, this bill permits

corporations to use a textbook for a longer period as long as it meets the academic standards established by the State Board. A corporation may also replace a textbook earlier than six years without prior approval from the State Board.

Background: The State Board of Education has granted school corporations a blanket waiver to use internet resources to replace or supplement traditional textbooks, and to choose their own text books if they so desire. The waiver covers all subjects where the state adoption process applied in the past. Corporations are also encouraged to collaborate to lower the cost of acquiring textbooks and other learning resources.

In 2010, Clearwater High School in Florida switched to a digital format for Mathematic and English textbooks. One advantage for students was that they had fewer textbooks to carry. The e-reader which replaced the textbooks weighs less than one pound.

School administrators stated that in order to cover the initial startup costs they had to borrow against future years' appropriations. Unofficial estimates indicate that the school budgeted around \$600,000 to equip approximately 2,200 teachers and students with e-readers. The cost for an e-reader was approximately \$178. The cost of the digital textbooks were about \$15 cheaper than the hard copy.

The district has also made arrangements to track each e-reader and shut it down if it is stolen. Students can also purchase insurance for about \$20 to cover damage or loss of the e-reader.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; State Board of Education; State Textbook Advisory Committee.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Department of Education website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/opd/textbook/index.html>

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